

8 May 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: 

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1. The number of US citizens assassinated in 1979 was among the highest of any year since 1968. At least 12 Americans representing the diplomatic, military, business, and private sectors were killed by direct terrorist assassinations, and one was innocently killed in a cross-fire between police and terrorists in El Salvador.

2. Seven of the 12 assassinations of Americans occurred in Turkey. They included one serviceman killed in an attack on nine servicemen who were standing at a bus stop; four servicemen killed when they were forced from a minibus and shot; one serviceman killed in an attack on two US men as they were walking home from work; and a teacher who was shot in the doorway of his apartment. The other US citizens assassinated were an engineer in Iran, an Ambassador in Afghanistan, a volunteer worker in Rhodesia, and two people stationed at the US Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.

3. The attached table shows the number of US citizens killed by direct terrorist assassination and as victims of indiscriminate terrorist attacks for each year since 1968.

  
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Year	Assassinations	Indiscriminate Killings	Total
1968	5	0	5
1969	1	0	1
1970	4	7	11
1971	4	1	5
1972	6	19*	25
1973	8	16**	24
1974	5	40***	45
1975	7	4	11
1976	10	1	11
1977	6	2	8
1978	10	2	12
1979	12	1	13
Total	78	93	171

\* Sixteen of these were Puerto Ricans killed in the March 30, 1972 attack on Lod Airport by the Japanese Red Army on contract for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

\*\* Fourteen of these were killed in the December 17, 1973 attack on the Rome Airport by the Arab Nationalist Youth Organization for the Liberation of Palestine, a front organization for the PFLP.

\*\*\* Thirty-seven of these were killed on September 8, 1974 when a bomb exploded on board TWA Flight 707. The Arab Nationalist Youth Organization for the Liberation of Palestine claimed credit for the act and later the National Transportation Safety Board announced that a high explosive bomb had gone off in the rear cargo compartment causing the crash.

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